2: Blackman E-5 (1920-1926) 1927
MR13 Fellahin MR13
Upper Egypt

larger granaries, which stood on the ground. They, again, were made of sun-baked clay. Many of these must have been from seven to eight or ten feet high.

Brick-making is also an important industry. The clay is mixed with chopped straw, and is prepared and kneaded as for pottery-making (see above, pp. 135, 151). So far as I know, men only are employed in this work. The bricks are shaped in a wooden mould with a handle, and are left on the ground to sun-bake (Fig. 81). Most of the houses of the *fellāḥīn*, and even some of the better-class residences, are built with these crude bricks, though the owners of the latter type of house more usually prefer to use fire-baked bricks.

FIG. 81. BRICKS LEFT TO SUN-BAKE: WOODEN MOULD WITH HANDLE IN FOREGROUND

When the walls are being built each bricklayer is assisted by a fellow-workman, who stands below and throws up to him one brick at a time (Fig. 82). I have often watched walls being built in this way, and I do not remember ever seeing a bricklayer miss a catch!

I have referred more than once in preceding chapters to fuel manufactured out of cow- or buffalo-dung. This dung is made into round, flat cakes by the women and young girls. Very young children are often to be seen in the villages, their hands and arms plastered with dung, busily engaged in making these cakes, which

8:Schaefer A-5 (1900-1901) 1904
MR13 Fellahin MR13
Upper Egypt

74.

A Thief in the Night.

539x

This song was usually attached to No. 125.

Of course not a thief who is seeking for valuables. The girl speaks:

Bil-lēl gāni ḥarāmi,
biṭ-ṭūb ṭauwaḥ ʿalēye.
We-nādêt, ma-ḥaddê gāni.

There came a thief by night to me,
And bits of brick he threw at me.
I called, but no one came to help me.

2. Modern Egyptian bricks are exactly like the ancient ones, sun-dried only, not baked. They consist of the tough, Nile mud, which is deposited by the inundation; "bits of brick" are, therefore, rather harmless missiles.